

January 18, 1963

The Rev. Edward O. Paquette,  
569 Sanford Road,  
North Westport, Mass.

Dear Father Paquette,

For reasons of a most grave nature and the attending scandal, I am bound to notify you, by these presents, that you no longer possess faculties in the Diocese of Fall River. You will also vacate the rectory at Our Lady of Grace Church, and leave the Diocese.

You must certainly appreciate the fact that you are liable to prosecution, under the Laws of the State of Massachusetts. Such a thing, should it happen, could only result in your loss of all possibility for priestly ministry.

I am deeply hurt at the type of return you give for the kindness, if I can honestly call it that, and not blame myself, shown you during recent years by,

Very sincerely yours,

Bishop of Fall River.



100041

2.25.1964

His Excellency  
Most Rev. Leo A. Pursley, D.D.,  
Bishop of Fort Wayne,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Your Excellency,

I have your letter with reference to  
Father Edward O. Paquette, resident now in Westfield  
Mass, his home,

Let me begin by saying that I can hardly  
return him to active duty in this diocese. If he has hon-  
estly told you his story you will recognize it as serious  
with inevitable elements of scandal. However, it could  
quite be that he has overcome his difficulty. I feel  
that you might help him, if you feel interested to try.  
But I would insist that his assurance that he has "overcome  
his difficulty" be supported by letters signed by responsi-  
ble priests who have been witness to his actions these past  
months, and by his doctor, at one time Doctor Rosenheim of  
Boston.

I would be interested to know if you decide  
to give Fr. Paquette opportunity to work in your diocese.

With every good and kind wish, I remain

Sincerely in Christ

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

Pa

100063

His Excellency  
Most Rev. Joseph H. Hodges,  
Bishop of Wheeling,  
Wheeling, West Va.

Your Excellency,

I regret I have not replied to your recent letter with reference to Fr. Pasquette. The past week has been hectic and freighted with letters to answer, and other diocesan business. Then too, I turned your letter over for filing and have not seen it since.

The important testimony, I should say would come from Father's "indicated" Doctor. I'm not sure that he sees too much of Dr. Rosenheim. In any case, such was not the case last November.

If you choose to give the man a trial, it would be well to keep him out of responsibility for young people, boys especially. And if the man proves satisfactory, so much the better, and I hope you may incardinate him. Things being as they were I cannot use him here.

Hope you keep well, and have a strenuous

Lent.

Sincerely in Xto.

Bishop

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

P3

100060

2.25.1964

His Excellency  
Most Rev. Joseph H. Hodges, D.D.,  
Wheeling, West Va.

Your Excellency,

Sorry to be tardy in replying to your inquiry about the Rev. Edward O. Paquette. It is months now since I sent him home, since his conduct caused quite a bit of scandal in two separate localities.

I frankly do not regard him as a good risk, although he has ability and has shown zeal. Of course there is possibility of reform and correction. Priests with whom he has been dealing, - at Spenser Cistercian Monastery, his pastor in Westfield, and his one-time doctor Rosenheim, a psychiatrist on Beacon St., Boston, are better able to bear witness than I. Fr. Paquette could furnish you the names, but I would go directly to them for estimates of his improvement.

Good to hear from you, and I trust you are readying for the Fall.

Sincerely in Xto.,

Bishop of Fall River.



100062

18 Bellevue Dr.  
Westfield, Mass. 01085  
March 18, 1972

Most Rev. John A. Marshall, O.C.  
52 Williams St.  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

4

Dear Bishop Marshall,

My congratulations upon your consecration as bishop, and appointment to the Diocese of Burlington.

I am very sorry to read about the Cathedral being badly burned and damaged in the recent fire.

My name is Father Edward Baguette. I am requesting of you, Bishop Marshall, to serve my priestly ministry in your diocese. I have <sup>been</sup> ordained for fifteen years.

I had been in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, under Bishop Leo Bursley.

I did have problems but received medical treatment, and I am now cured. During my medical treatment I was the assistant chaplain at St. Anthony's Hospital in Michigan City, Indiana.

Upon completion of my treatment I decided to return East to be closer to my parents because they are getting on in years. Bishop Bursley agreed to this. He said that he will, upon request, send a letter of recommendation.

My pastor of my home parish here in Westfield, Rev. Timothy O'Connor, knows your uncle - Father Eugene Marshall. Father O'Connor said that he, too, will be happy to send you a letter of recommendation.

The following also said that they will, upon request, send letters of recommendation:

Dr. Charles Hillenbrand, my psychiatrist of Michigan City, Indiana; Father Joseph Krater,

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

P5

chaplain of St. Anthony's Hospital,  
Michigan City; Rev. Stanley Dominick,  
pastor of St. Stanislaus parish, Michigan  
city where I helped out on week-ends.  
Sister M. Verenis, administrator of St.  
Anthony's Hospital; and of course,  
Father Timothy O'Connor, my home parish  
pastor of our Lady of Blessed Sacrament  
parish here in Westfield.

I am now celebrating daily mass in  
Westfield. I do pray, Bishop Marshall,  
that you will consider my request,  
and accept me into your diocese.  
I do ever want so much to carry on  
my priestly ministry. Should you  
wish further information do let me  
know - or maybe, should you wish a  
personal interview, I will be very  
happy to come to see you at your  
convenience. God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Edward O.  
Baguette

March 21, 1972

The Reverend Edward O. Paquette  
18 Bellevue Drive  
Westfield, Mass. 01085

Dear Father:

Thank you for your letter of March 18 in which you have requested to serve as a priest of the Diocese of Burlington. Naturally, I am very anxious to have the assistance of as many quality priests as may be possible.

In the next few weeks the Diocesan Chancellor, Father McSweeney, will be checking with Diocesan authorities, and others whom you mention in your letter, for their recommendation concerning you.

I would greatly appreciate receiving medical reports from the doctors in Michigan City, Indiana, or those presently treating you in Westfield, Mass., in order that I might know the nature of your illness and the progress you have made.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

(Most Reverend) John A. Marshall,  
Bishop of Burlington.

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

P6

March 21, 1972

The Reverend Edward O. Paquette  
18 Bellevue Drive  
Westfield, Mass. 01085

Dear Father:

Thank you for your letter of March 18 in which you have requested to serve as a priest of the Diocese of Burlington. Naturally, I am very anxious to have the assistance of as many quality priests as may be possible.

In the next few weeks the Diocesan Chancellor, Father McSweeney, will be checking with Diocesan authorities, and others whom you mention in your letter, for their recommendation concerning you.

I would greatly appreciate receiving medical reports from the doctors in Michigan City, Indiana, or those presently treating you in Westfield, Mass., in order that I might know the nature of your illness and the progress you have made.

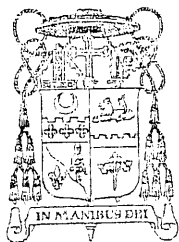
With every prayerful best wish, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

(Most Reverend) John A. Marshall,  
Bishop of Burlington.

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT  
P6





DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

POST OFFICE BOX 390 • FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801

March 30, 1972

Rev. John R. McSweeney  
52 Williams Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401 .

Dear Father McSweeney:

I am responding to your inquiry about Father Edward O. Paquette. The dossier is large and the history long. I will try to be brief and to the point.

Father Paquette was ordained for the Diocese of Fall River on February 2, 1957, and was incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on April 6, 1964. He has served briefly in two parishes and for longer periods in three others. In all of his assignments he has done quite satisfactory work, but he has a personal problem described by his psychiatrist as "a latent homosexual drive which becomes active only during cycles of depression".

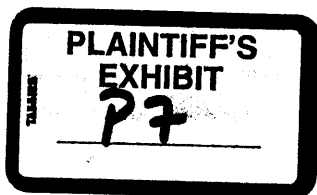
During the past two years Father Paquette has had extensive and intensive therapy under the care of Dr. Charles Hillenbrand, a Catholic psychiatrist for whom I have great respect. I quote from a medical report of May 22, 1971: "This patient acknowledges his malady and perseveres in his resolution to contain it. He is fiercely proud and protective of his priesthood. He is repelled by the thought of abjuring it. In his conversation with me he says repeatedly that he wants to continue to be a priest, that he feels like a priest, that he has the heart and mind of a priest. I have the opinion, however fallible, that this patient can, with persistence, intelligence and medical assistance, contain his cycles and their perils and function normally".

It would be natural to ask: Why, then, do I not keep him? There are two reasons. First, Father Paquette himself would like to be situated closer to his home and his aging parents in Westfield, Massachusetts. Second, the three homosexual episodes involving young boys occurred over a period of six years in three large parishes in three parts of the Diocese. The territory is not large enough to provide another assignment and the risk scandal is thus aggravated. I believe that Father Paquette should be given an institutional chaplaincy in which he could exercise his ministry with less likelihood of relapse. Presently I do not have such a place.

If you wish to discuss further details with me, I shall be happy to see your Bishop during the Atlanta meeting.

Fraternally in Christ,

+ *Geo. Tursley*  
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend



## Blessed Sacrament Rectory

6 Union Street

Westfield, Massachusetts

April 4-1972

Reverend John R. McShweeney  
52 Williams Street  
Burlington, Vermont.

Dear Father:

Father Edward Paquette is living at the home of his parents in this parish. He is saying Mass each day at the Holy Child Guild, which is the responsibility of this Parish. He is leading an exemplary priestly life.

He was brought up here, and I have known him as a seminarian. He was ordained for the Diocese of Fall River in 1957. In 1963, he was sent home by Bishop Connelly on account of an incident with boys. He was incardinated by Bishop Purcell of Fort Wayne. There was another incident a few months ago in 1971. The Bishop sent him to a Psychiatrist.

This Doctor Hillenbrand has recommended that he return to priestly work and explains his lapses as fits of depression. He also said that Father Paquette is not basically a homosexual. It is a latent condition which the Doctor claims to come on in deep depression and he considers it as quite a normal thing.

I do not qualify as having

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT  
P8

## Blessed Sacrament Rectory

6 Union Street

Westfield, Massachusetts

2 -

any knowledge on the subject, but I do know that Father Paquette is a good priest. His Bishop has given him a celeret, and has written a very kind letter to him.

I would recommend him. Living closer to home, he feels and I agree that he can avoid the depression and discouragement. He is basically an old fashioned, Mass every day priest, and I hope that you can see fit to give him a chance.

Sincerely yours in Christ  
Timothy T. O'Connor  
Pastor

PERSONNEL BOARD - re: Rev. Edward Paquet

Father Edward Paquet, now of Westfield, Mass., his home town, seemed to be a very serious minded priest, perhaps a little too serious, although this could be due to the interview itself. I am sure that it was very serious for him as he is anxious to get into the active ministry again.

He talked quite openly, but not with any specifics, about his lapses into homosexuality. I would guess that there were two such instances in Fall River Diocese and two in Indiana.

Since the recommendations concerning his work are good, I would rely heavily on the diagnosis and professional advice of Dr. Hillelbrand who treated him following his last lapse. He feels that Father Paquet has this trouble only in periods of acute depression and feels that he can function well if these periods of acute depression are avoided.

The doctor advised, in recommending him to the Bishop, that he have semi-annual physical examinations, preferably by a psychiatrist and that he meet monthly with a priest confessor. I feel that as an added precaution, he should be required to visit a psychiatrist who has been made aware of the prognosis of Dr. Hillelbrand, at least every other month and that a report of this visit should be made to the pastor where he is stationed, or to the Bishop.

I would also feel that the pastor to whom he is sent should be made aware of the problem and that it be a rectory where there is more than one assistant pastor.

If the above recommendations of Dr. Hillelbrand were rigidly followed and heartily accepted by Father Paquet, that I would recommend him for acceptance on a trial basis into the diocese.

I have to add that while I have had some experience with male persons with this sickness of homosexuality, I have absolutely no experience with it in priests. I would therefore again state that I am relying on Dr. Hillelbrand's advice and recommendation, as well as the little I saw of Father Paquet during the interview.

*Edward J. Fitzsimons*  
Edward J. Fitzsimons

P. S. I did find it a bit disquieting that he has not visited a psychiatrist since he has returned home. He felt no need of it.

*EJF*



June 9, 1972

Reverend Edward G. Paquette  
18 Bellevue Drive  
Westfield, Massachusetts 01085

Dear Father Paquette:

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you your appointment as an Assistant at Christ the King Parish in Rutland, Vermont, and grant to you all the faculties of the Diocese of Burlington. You are asked to report to the Pastor, the Reverend James Engle, on Wednesday, June 14, 1972.

Bishop Marshall, upon the advice of your former doctor, Dr. Charles Hillenbrand, requests that you visit regularly a psychiatrist who has been made aware of your prognosis, and a report of these visits made known to your Pastor. Dr. Hillenbrand recommends that these visits to the psychiatrist be at least semi-annual, and he further recommends a monthly conference with a confessor-counsellor, with which Bishop Marshall concurs and prescribes that you do.

Would you kindly acknowledge this appointment in writing.

We do hope that you will enjoy your work in Vermont, and on behalf of all the priests, I welcome you to your new position.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend John R. McSweeney  
Chancellor

JRM/an

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

P10

October 21, 1974

The Most Reverend John A. Marshall  
52 Williams Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Bishop Marshall:

I am greatly disappointed and very saddened over the report I received from the hospital that Father Paquette sexually molested two young men while on communion calls in the hospital. The first incident happened in latter August and the other was October 17<sup>th</sup>. These are the first and only two incidents that I am aware of and the hospital authorities trying to cover up the first incident didn't notify me of it until it happened a second time when they called me in on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

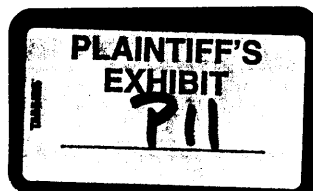
As you readily understand, it is imperative that Fr. Paquette be removed from the Rutland area immediately but I do hope that he will be able to be reassigned after proper psychiatric treatment. In every other way he has been a good, loyal, hard-working priest and deserves every consideration of possible rehabilitation. He certainly has my sympathy and prayers because I am sure this uncontrollable compulsion must cause him terrible agony since he apparently tries very hard to be a good priest.

I would recommend for his sake as well as that of the church that before reassignment he be sent away for a few weeks for very intensive psychiatric therapy. I would suggest also that since his removal from the parish must be done quickly, it should be done without fanfare and farewell parties and that it be publicly announced as a sick leave. As you requested, Father Paquette will be in contact with you as soon as he has had his visit with Dr. Peltz.

With every best wish and prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ

*James T. Engle*  
Father Engle



November 20, 1974

Reverend Edward Paquette  
18 Bellview Drive  
Westfield, Massachusetts

Dear Father Paquette:

This is to confirm my conversation of November 19 with you, that Bishop Marshall is assigning you as an Associate Pastor at St. Augustine Parish in Montpelier, Vermont, effective November 22, 1974.

Would you kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter in writing and acceptance of this appointment.

May I take this opportunity to express my concern for your future wellbeing, and be assured of my prayers and assistance, if needed.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Reverend John R. McSweeney  
Chancellor

JRM/an

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

P12

June 15, 1976

C  
O  
P  
Y

Reverend Edward G. Paquette  
St. Augustine Rectory  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Dear Father Paquette:

This is to notify you officially that you are appointed Associate Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Burlington, Vermont, effective June 23, 1976, at which time your present duties as Associate Pastor of St. Augustine Parish, Montpelier, Vermont will be terminated.

You are free to speak of this assignment upon receipt of this letter.

Would you kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter and acceptance of this assignment in writing.

At this time, I would like to thank you for your service to the Diocese at St. Augustine Parish, and pray that you will have a fruitful and happy ministry in this new assignment.

Faternally yours in Christ,

Reverend John R. McSweeney  
Chancellor & Episcopal Vicar for Chancery Affairs

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT  
P13



April 4, 1978

The Reverend Dr. Thomas A. Kane  
House of Affirmation  
120 Hill Street  
Whitinsville, Mass. 01588

Dear Father Kane:

Thank you for your letter concerning Reverend Edward O. Paquette, who will be resuming counseling with you on a monthly basis and about whom you have a prognosis that is "optimistic but guarded". I am grateful to you for the assistance that you are giving him.

I do have two requests:

- a) Despite the demands of two sets of irate parents that "something be done about this", Father Paquette's pastor and I are determined to take the risk of leaving him in his present assignment. Our thinking is that, knowing the awareness of others, concerning his problem, Father Paquette will have reason for "self-control". Do you agree with this thinking? Since Father Paquette has now had difficulty in two of our three major population areas, I have told him that there is little opportunity for other assignments within this Diocese, if further problems develop.
- b) In view of your statement that "Father Paquette will benefit only minimally from therapeutic intervention", do you think that the danger of scandal is already too risky? Your letter seemed to imply that this is not the case but, knowing the background, I wish to be clear on this point.

With gratitude for your kindness, and with every prayerful best wish for the fullest joy of the Easter season, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Most Reverend) John A. Marshall,  
Bishop of Burlington.

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

P14

730014

April 18, 1978

The Reverend Edward O. Paquette  
18 Belleview Drive  
Westfield, Mass. 01085

Dear Father Paquette:

C  
O  
P  
Y

It was with deep regret that I was forced by your conduct and the reaction of the parishioners to ask you to leave your assignment yesterday. You have so many good qualities as a human being and as a priest, that the people and priests of this Diocese, including myself, have come to regard you with affection. Still, the serious weakness that you have shown and your unwillingness or inability to cooperate with your counsellor at the House of Affirmation has forced this decision upon me.

As I informed you yesterday, I see no possibility of your returning to the Diocese of Burlington as a priest, and I am hereby suspending your faculties within this Diocese. As for the Diocese of Springfield or elsewhere, that would depend upon your own Ordinary - Bishop McManus in Fort Wayne-South Bend - and/or other Bishops in whose dioceses you might request to be active.

Since your membership in the Priests' Benefit Fund will be effective through June 30, 1978, the Diocese of Burlington will assume financial responsibility for counselling for the next several weeks. I shall be in correspondence with Bishop McManus and also visit with him the first week of May in an effort to determine how he may see your status for the future.

I am very grateful to you for the service that you have given to the Diocese of Burlington, and I hope most sincerely that you will be able to get to the root of your problem and one day be able to serve again as a priest.

With an assurance of my prayers and very best wishes for yourself and your family, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

(Most Reverend) John A. Marshall,  
Bishop of Burlington.

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT  
PIS